

that these resources meet the standards of national significance and are not adequately represented anywhere else in our national parks. The next step in the very thorough and methodical process of choosing which areas of our Nation should become part of the system is the determination of feasibility and suitability, which my bill authorizes.

Rota's cultural resources are truly unique. People first arrived on the island some 3,500 years ago. Remnants of their ancient settlements are found at several sites and include the iconic latte stone houses. These consist of two parallel rows of limestone columns with each column supporting a hemispherical capstone upon which a wooden framed house was placed. A quarry for these columns and capstones is also among the archaeologically important sites that could eventually be part of a Rota National Park.

Also of national significance are Rota's natural resources, not least of which is the native limestone forest there that provides habitat to the endangered Mariana crow, the Aga. This rare species is protected under both local and federal laws; and its future could be further assured if areas of its already limited range were incorporated into a park.

The Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act was passed by the House in both the 111th and 112th Congress with broad bipartisan support. One important reminder made then and worth repeating is that passage of the Act gives the Rota study no special preference. There are other suitability and feasibility studies, which Congress has approved and which are waiting in turn for the National Park Service to have the resources to conduct. The bill I am introducing simply ensures that the island of Rota is in that queue.

That is not to say there is no urgency to completing a study. Rota is very much at a crossroads. Land use changes are taking place that could affect eventual park boundaries. Rare and endangered species, such as the Aga, would be safer with the permanent protection of a park. The economy of Rota, which could be developed around themes of eco-tourism, needs a high value destination that park designation would provide. These are some of the many reasons that the people of Rota support the park study and why I am introducing the bill today.

I want to thank all those Members who are original cosponsors of the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act. And I want to thank the hundreds of House Members who voted in favor of this study in the 111th and 112th Congresses. I ask that you do so again, when this bill returns to the floor in the 113th Congress.

#### ART ON THE BRIX

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alyssa Graves, owner of Art on the Brix for receiving the Business of the Year Award from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce.

This award is given to an outstanding chamber member that has contributed substantially to the Chamber of Commerce community.

Art on the Brix combines low stress art classes in a playful setting. With the attitude of "go outside the lines", Art on the Brix inspires all types of people to relax and get creative. Alyssa Graves had a dream to bring an artistic experience to Golden and she has achieved just that.

I extend my deepest congratulations and appreciation to Alyssa Graves and Art on the Brix for this well deserved recognition from the Greater Golden Chamber of Commerce. I have no doubt her commitment to the people of Golden has made our community a better place for all of us to live.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DES MOINES

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Junior League of Des Moines (JLDM) for being selected as the 2013 organizational inductee to the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. The Junior League of Des Moines is being recognized for their efforts as outstanding Iowans who have selflessly given their time and talents to benefit their state.

Obtaining a coveted induction to the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame is the most prestigious statewide honor a volunteer can attain. Members of this exclusive club have changed their communities forever through their volunteer service and will be forever enshrined in the State Historical Museum.

In 1926, Mrs. Ruth Wallace Wijkman founded the Junior Social Service League of Des Moines with a mere 10 members. In 1931, Wijkman's organization of humble beginnings would formally affiliate with the Association of Junior Leagues to become the Junior League of Des Moines. Today, after more than 80 years, the JLDM is stronger than ever with hundreds of members that remain committed to the mission of tirelessly building a better community. Whether the task at hand is education and caring for children, expanding opportunities for young people in Des Moines, or building playgrounds with their bare hands, the JLDM is never shy when it comes to improving the world around them.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this extraordinary group of women demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and service. The Junior League of Des Moines' efforts truly embody the Iowa spirit, and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating the JLDM on their award, thanking them for their service, and wishing them future success as they continue to change lives.

#### ARBOR DAY 2013—CITY OF HOUSTON

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I regret not being able to be here in Memorial Park with all

of you this morning, but I am joining you in celebration today from Washington, DC. Memorial Park is my favorite place to run. The three-mile, crushed granite trail was once shaded and surrounded by the most beautiful trees. As you all know, the 2011 Texas drought took its toll and because of it, there's one thing that is becoming more and more noticeably absent: our Texas trees.

In 2006, I obtained \$28.5 million in funding for beautification, erosion prevention and flood-control programs in the Houston area. One year later, over 20,000 trees were planted along Will Clayton and Highway 59. Thousands more trees have been planted along Houston Freeway, which I call Treeways. Many of the trees were planted by civic groups and non-profits. Apache Corporation was one of the groups that donated thousands of trees. I want to thank the thousands of volunteers who showed up that rainy, muddy morning during a Texas Gully Washer to help plant trees. Today, the trees are maturing and thriving—I smile every time I see them. I now refer to our highways as treeways.

I support the goals and ideals of National Arbor Day, and I wholeheartedly support the planting as well as the management of healthy trees in our community. I would like to recognize the City of Houston, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Memorial Park Conservancy, Apache Corporation and the citizens of Houston as they celebrate the value and beauty of trees in our community. By planting trees today, we are taking the necessary steps to ensure the quality of life for those who come after us.

In 2009, Mayor Bill White started the Million Trees + Houston program. The goal was to plant more than a million new trees in the City of Houston, and today, Houston Parks and Recreation along with Apache Corporation will plant its 3 millionth tree.

And that's just the way it is.

#### HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANNA MURPHY, OF STAFFORD SPRINGS AND HANNA DE BRUYN, OF OLD LYME

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 13, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of two Connecticut students being recognized for their contributions to their communities. Anna Murphy, 11, and Hanna De Bruyn, 16, have been selected by the Prudential Spirit of Service awards for their commitment to community service and the impact of their efforts.

First, I recognize state honoree and top-two finalist from the State of Connecticut, Anna Murphy of Stafford Springs. Anna led a fundraising effort through a penny drive to help local families heat their homes during harsh New England winters. So far, Anna has raised more than \$1,400. It is a yearly tradition in Anna's family to collect pennies to donate to families to pay for heating oil. Inspired by that example, Anna organized her classmates and local business to contribute to the fund, so far filling the gas tanks in two homes. For her contributions, Anna will receive \$1,000, a trip to Washington, DC in May and an engraved silver medallion.